

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 130848Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3968

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 5930

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4008

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, VN ASEAN

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEW OF VIETNAMESE VISIT TO MALAYSIA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3848 NOTAL

1. IN UNCHARACTERISTIC GESTURE, SOVIET CHARGE YURI MIAKOTNYKH, INVITED DCM TO LUNCH JULY 9. OTHERS PRESENT WERE SOVIET COUNSELOR BEGSULTAN BASAE AND SINGAPORE COUNSELOR SEE CHAK MUN. ALTHOUGH TWO HOUR CONVERSATION PROVIDED MIAKOTNYKH OPPORTUNITY TO RECITE STANDARD SOVIET LINE ABOUT DANGERS OF CHINA, PEACEFUL INTENTIONS OF SOVIETS, SOVIET OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN BASES IN ASIA, ETC., REAL PURPOSE OF INVITATION SEEMED TO BE TO DISCUSS VIETNAMESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN'S JULY 5-9 VISIT TO MALAYSIA. MIAKONYKH EMPHASIZED VIETNAM WANTS BETTER RELATIONS WITH ITS
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SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS AND PURPOSE OF PHAN TRIP WAS

TO MAKE EXPLANATION OF THIS FACT. MIAKOTNYKH QUOTED WITH APPROVAL RECENT STATEMENT BY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFFIE THAT VIETNAMESE NOT SUPPORTING CPM INSURGENCY WERE INDEED SINCERE NOT ONLY IN WISHING BETTER RELATIONS BUT IN ASSERTING THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORS. SAID VIETNAMESE WERE LIKE SOVIETS: THEY WOULD NOT EXPORT REVOLUTION, BUT WERE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO EXPORT OF COUNTER REVOLUTION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT VIETNAMESE INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST THAILAND, HE SAID "WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT."

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION MIAKONYKH HOTLY DENIED THAT VIETNAM WAS IN ANY WAY INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET POLICY OR THAT SOVIETS SAW VIETNAM AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO CHINA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOVIET PLEASURE IN RECENT VIETNAMESE SUCCESSES BUT EMPHASIZED ESSENTIAL INDEPENDENCE OF VIETNAMESE ACTIONS AND POLICY.

COMMENT. SIGNIFICANCE OF ABOVE SEEM TO BE SOVIET DESIRE TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF RECENT VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH STARTED IN MALAYSIA. AT THE SAME TIME, SOVIETS WERE AT SOME PAINS TO ASSERT THAT DESPITE THEIR PRIDE IN VIETNAMESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. VIETNAMESE WERE ACTING ON THEIR OWN. UNDERHILL

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